

# Blanco County - Voter Information

## Local Elections on Saturday – May 4, 2024

### Get Ready to Vote in a Local Election in Texas!

Online Voter Guide for Blanco County local elections: <http://www.lwvhillcountrytexas.org/>

Voters may read and print a guide for use when they go to vote.

Printed Voter Guides for Blanco County are available at the libraries and other locations.

[VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) is a League website which provides the election information on the candidates: a voter enters the address on their Voter Registration card to access the information.

The Blanco County Voter Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of the Hill Country Texas with information on candidates for elections for the Blanco – City Council, Johnson City - City Council; and Johnson City ISD School Board.

Check your Voter Registration information using the state website: [VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov). Voter information can be updated at this website. The website cannot be used to register to vote in Texas.

#### Deadline Dates for Primary Elections on Tuesday – May 4, 2024

Register to Vote/Change Address	Thursday	April 4	Last day to register to vote
Voting by Mail	Monday	January 1	First day to apply for Mail in Ballot
	Tuesday	April 23	Last day to apply for Mail in Ballot
	Saturday	May 4	Last day to return Mail in Ballot
Early Voting	Monday	April 22	First day to vote in-person
	Tuesday	April 30	Last day to vote in-person
Election Day	Saturday	May 4	In-person at voting location



**League of Women Voters - Hill Country Texas**

**P. O. Box 290303 Kerrville, Texas 78029-0303**

**Email: [president@lwvhillcountrytexas.org](mailto:president@lwvhillcountrytexas.org)**

**Website: [lwvhillcountrytexas.org](http://lwvhillcountrytexas.org)**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan civic organization and does not support or oppose any candidate or candidates or political party or parties. This Voter Guide provides voters an opportunity to read about candidates who have filed for an office. The League of Women Voters of the Hill Country Texas makes contact with each candidate in a contested election using a variety of methods to contact and invite each candidate to participate in a county voter guide. The candidate makes the decision about responding to the voter guide invitation, as participation is voluntary. All responses to questions come directly from the candidates and are not edited by League of Women Voters.

## Election and Voting Information for Blanco County

**Yellow voter registration card details the elections for the voter residence address.**

Sample ballots and other Information from the Blanco County Election Department posted online:

<https://www.co.blanco.tx.us/page/blanco.elections>

Take a photo ID with you to the voting location.

Curb-side voting is available for Early Voting and on Election Day.

Remember: no cell phones, no texting, no photos, no campaign material, no loitering

### **VOTING INFORMATION FOR CITY ELECTIONS IN BLANCO AND JOHNSON CITY**

#### **EARLY VOTING:**

Blanco	South Annex - Blanco County	402 Blanco Avenue
Johnson City	Hoppe Room - Blanco County Courthouse	101 East Cypress Street

Sunday April 21	Monday April 22	Tuesday April 23	Wednesday April 24	Thursday April 25	Friday April 26	Saturday April 27
	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	

Sunday April 28	Monday April 29	Tuesday April 30	Wednesday May 1	Thursday May 2	Friday May 3	Saturday May 4
	8am-5pm	8am-5pm				Election Day

#### **ELECTION DAY: Saturday – May 4 from 7:00am to 7:00pm**

Voter may go to any Vote Center on Election Day.

	Location	Address	
Blanco	Blanco County Courthouse - South Annex	402 Blanco Avenue	
	First Baptist Church - Fellowship Hall	1200 4th Street	
Johnson City	Blanco County Courthouse - Hoppe Room	101 East Cypress Street	
	Good Shepherd Catholic Church	285 Loop 281	

## Blanco City Council – 3 places

### Election conducted by the Blanco County Election Office.

Blanco is a General Law (Type A) city with an elected city council and mayor form of government. The five members of the city council are elected at large, and each council member represents all residents within the city limits of Blanco. The term of office is two years.

Duties: appoint the city manager; oversee the city manager and the direction of the city; approve the city budget and the tax rate; set salaries and benefits of city employees; pass ordinances and resolutions; appoint members to advisory boards.

Election is for three at large positions: three candidates with the highest number of votes will be declared as elected.

<b>Grady Achilles</b>	<b>Candy Cargill</b>	<b>Bobby Mack-McClung</b>
Not able to serve at this time.	Email: <a href="mailto:candy@hcrealestate.com">candy@hcrealestate.com</a>	Email: <a href="mailto:bmack@awscom.net">bmack@awscom.net</a>

<b>Dennis Moore</b>	<b>Mike Smith</b>	<b>Rodney Thrailkill</b>
Website: <a href="https://dennisforblanco.com/">https://dennisforblanco.com/</a>	Email: <a href="mailto:mtexsmith@gmail.com">mtexsmith@gmail.com</a>	Email: <a href="mailto:rbt76@hotmail.com">rbt76@hotmail.com</a>

### What in your background qualifies you to serve as a member of the Blanco City Council?

**Archilles:** Candidate wishes to advise that he will not be able to serve at this time.

**Cargill:** I have lived in Blanco for over 40 years. My history here may give others some insight into our problems and fixes. Most of all I want to earn the trust of the Citizens of Blanco and when I enter those chambers with my "council" hat on, their interest if first! I have been working since I was 14. Mam's little girl, Daddy's little boy. Wide variety of skillsets.

**Mack-McClung:** Having resided in Blanco County since 1991 and within the City of Blanco since 2002, I am invested in this community. Its small-town charm atmosphere resonate with me. Through visionary leadership and collaborative efforts, Blanco can be known as the Gem of the Hill Country. I bring experience to the table. My tenure on Council saw numerous achievements, including the 2004 Comprehensive Master Plan and a balanced budget. My background as a business executive equips me with experience and financial insight necessary to navigate complex challenges. Fostering consensus and a "can-do" attitude among diverse stakeholders is essential for effective governance.

**Moore:** The roles I have held in my career have equipped me with skills in strategic leadership, organizational management, and consensus building. I am a collaborative leader and understand complex issues, fiscal responsibility, and stakeholder engagement which will allow me to be effective as a City Council member. I have managed people, projects, and budgets throughout my career, and I am confident that I'll be able to utilize these experiences and skills to benefit our community

**Smith:** Co-founder and president of Transet Co. <https://www.transetco.com/> a commercial/industrial general contracting firm for 32 years. I have also served as: FUMC Longview Chairman Board of Trustees, Planning and Zoning Commissioner, Building Code Advisory Board Chair, Board of Director AGC, University of Houston's College of Pharmacy Dean's Advisory Council, University of Houston Maddon Society, LeTourneau University's Scholarship Committee, and president of Windridge Equestrian Therapeutic Riding Center of East Texas <http://www.windridgetexas.org/> . I feel my knowledge of business enables me to understand many of the issues that our town is facing.

**Thrailkill:** The last 2 years of experience as Councilman and last year a Mayor Pro Tem have readied me to continue the work ahead. I will continue to listen to all corners of our small town and will always act on behalf of the sum total of Blanco citizens. I will be ready on day 1 to continue working for the citizens of Blanco.

### What are the most pressing issues facing the Blanco City Council?

**Archilles:** Candidate wishes to advise that he will not be able to serve at this time.

**Cargill:** Water and sewer infrastructure, Roads, Police, too much spending. Learning to say NO.  
Water and sewer infrastructure, Roads, Police, too much spending. Learning to say NO.  
Water and sewer infrastructure. Roads, Police, too much spending. Learning to say NO.  
Etc.

**Mack-McClung:** 1. Blanco requires a sustainable and dependable water source to ensure long-term viability. 2. Aging utilities necessitates attention to accommodate both current and projected population growth. 3. Urgent attention is needed for the maintenance and improvement streets. 4. With rapid development encroaching from Austin and San Antonio, managing traffic and preserving Blanco's character is paramount. 5. A lack of cohesive planning threatens Blanco's future, highlighting the need to rejuvenate the comprehensive master plans effectively. Revisiting the 2020 study's findings and addressing the 48% unfulfilled goals from the 2004 plan are crucial in this process.

**Moore:** The most pressing issues facing Blanco are foundational issues – roads and water to be specific. To move forward, our foundation has to be solid, and we need to focus on this. Things are always more difficult than they seem on the surface, and I understand this given my many years of leadership experience, but that does not mean they cannot get done. It takes creating a plan, creating a budget, and then creating a path to achieving what we set out to achieve. I've done this my entire career, and I can do it for Blanco.

**Smith:** Growth not only in Blanco, but regional growth which is an outside source that's placing unprecedented demands on the Texas Hill Country. Its increased demand on water, transportation, and services is having a monumental impact on our town. How the city of Blanco addresses the Hwy 281 expansion now will forever influence the future of our town. Finance, Blanco is dealing with an aging infrastructure our water distribution, waste water collection and road system are in need of repair and upgrade. We have monetary constraints that must be improved to enable us to properly address our infrastructure needs.

**Thrailkill:** The Texas Hill Country is experiencing unprecedented growth coming to us from both San Antonio and Austin. This growth will challenge our precarious water supply as well as our infrastructure generally. We must continue to invest in our infrastructure as well as strengthening our position in both our current and future water sources. To accomplish this we must be on a solid and sound financial footing. This requires a balanced budget and best financial practices. If re-elected, I commit to continue to make measured and sound financial decisions in order to continue to move the city forward "in the black."

#### **What are the citizens of Blanco telling you about their city council concerns?**

**Archilles:** Candidate wishes to advise that he will not be able to serve at this time.

**Cargill:** They wonder if anyone cares about them. They wonder how their tax dollars are spent. They wonder why the City can't fix a pot-hole. They wonder why our "new" water treatment plant isn't finished yet. They wonder if we are going to run out of water. They wonder why we outsource so much and how much it costs. They wonder why we have so many city employees since we do outsource so much. They wonder why the police don't pull big trucks over. They wonder what happened to the Blanco they loved.

**Mack-McClung:** The citizens of Blanco are voicing a multitude of concerns regarding their city council's performance. These include frustrations over a perceived lack of transparency in decision-making processes, evident discord and lack of cooperation among council members, a notable absence of compromise in addressing critical issues, such as the absence of a balanced budget and neglect in street and pothole repairs. Additionally, residents are grappling with the bewildering and conflicting information surrounding the proposed 281 relief route, further exacerbating community tensions and fueling dissatisfaction with the Council's handling of vital infrastructure matters.

**Moore:** The majority of citizens I've spoken with have reiterated the need for shoring up our roads and water. And, I am in agreement with them. As I mentioned in my answer above, getting the basics in order is not a "nice to do", it's a "have to do". These are essentials. Everything else depends on this.

**Smith:** They want to protect our way of life and do not want to be overburdened with regulations. They need our streets properly maintained and need a continuous reliable supply of water. We have been in Stage II drought restrictions for over 17 months. Everyone wants to be listened to, and the council members need to always be receptive to the citizens' input.

**Thrailkill:** Secure our water sources and the infrastructure that serves it. Fund Blanco PD Fund our Public Library Protect our historic square. Mitigate traffic on 281. Repair our roads. Mostly I think people want to protect their way of life. Small town, small town values. I would like to recognize Blanco in 10 years. This is what I am fighting for.

## Johnson City - City Council – 3 places

### Election conducted by the Blanco County Election Office.

City of Johnson City is a General Law (Type A) with a city council/mayor form of government. The five members of the city council are elected at-large, and each council member represents all residents within the city limits of Johnson City. The city council and the mayor serve two year terms with the mayor and two city council members elected one year and three city council members elected the next year.

Duties: appoint the city manager; oversee the city manager and the direction of the city; approve the city budget and the tax rate; set salaries and benefits of city employees; pass ordinances and resolutions; appoint members to advisory boards.

The election is for three at large positions, and the three candidates with the highest number of votes will be declared as elected.

<b>Kemp W. Elliott</b>	<b>William Johnson</b>
Email: kemp.elliott@yahoo.com	No response received.
<b>Samuel C. Richardson</b>	<b>Teresa Taylor-Babb</b>
Website: RichardsonForJCTX.com	Email: TeresaE.Taylor@gmail.com

#### **What in your background qualifies you to serve as a member of the City Council for Johnson City?**

**Elliott:** I have been in the Johnson City fire department for 19 years as vice president and secretary and as a member for 25 years.

**Johnson:** No response received.

**Richardson:** My experience as a first responder has ingrained a deep sense of service and an understanding of community needs. As a small business owner, I'm attuned to the economic heartbeat of Johnson City. Working with municipalities across Texas has endowed me with insights into effective governance, and my project management background ensures I can deliver on initiatives that drive our city forward. Together, these experiences have equipped me to serve our community with a balanced, informed, and responsive approach, focusing on sustainable growth and the well-being of all our citizens.

**Taylor-Babb:** I have gained much experience and knowledge from serving two terms. We must have leadership capable of moving us forward unhindered and without fear of those seeking to capitalize on our local resources. My track record demonstrates honesty, transparency, being bold within reason, and being guided by principles. My time and resources have been spent researching what other fast-growing communities have done right, wrong, and what could be improved. I was also selected to participate in the Hill Country Alliance Leadership Institute with 20 elected officials. As a result, I have gained valuable insight into unique solutions for our community.

#### **What are the most pressing issues facing the City Council of Johnson City?**

**Elliott:** I believe the issues pressing Johnson City is growth and affordable housing.

**Johnson:** No response received.

**Richardson:** The most pressing issues facing the City Council in Johnson City include managing sustainable growth while preserving our small-town charm, upgrading aging infrastructure to meet current and future demands, enhancing local economic development to support businesses and attract investment, addressing affordable housing to ensure inclusivity and a place for the younger generation, and safeguarding natural resources against the backdrop of expansion. Balancing these challenges requires thoughtful planning and community engagement to ensure that Johnson City thrives economically, socially, and environmentally, maintaining its identity while embracing necessary changes for a prosperous future.

**Taylor-Babb:** In our community, one of the biggest issues we face is that of aging infrastructure and the fact that we are reaching the limits of the capabilities of our current infrastructure. Additionally, we are experiencing a huge loss of water. Despite the good work being done by our staff and the City to identify the root causes, we are still way behind the curve in terms of addressing them. Even though a number of corrective measures have been implemented, they remain relatively short-term.

### **What are the citizens of Johnson City telling you about their city council concerns?**

**Elliott:** People in Johnson City say living costs are too high, they want to feel safer, and they're tired of complicated politics. They want things simple and straight-up, just like me. We're all after a better, straightforward deal for our families.

**Johnson:** No response received.

**Richardson:** Citizens of Johnson City frequently express concerns about the rising cost of living that challenges the community's affordability. They emphasize the importance of maintaining a high quality of life, which includes accessible amenities, green spaces, and community services. Safety and security remain paramount, with a desire for effective measures that protect all neighborhoods. Additionally, there's a call for the City Council to embody common sense in decision-making, focusing on practical, impactful solutions that directly address residents' needs and priorities. Listening to these voices is crucial for shaping policies that reflect our community's values and aspirations.

**Taylor-Babb:** There are several concerns that the citizens of Johnson City have expressed. Primarily, there is a concern about water availability. Johnson City provides water to its citizens through groundwater. The recent drought conditions, combined with the massive growth, have our citizens worried about how we're managing our resources. Citizens also have concerns about affordable housing. As housing prices, taxes, and living costs rise, more of our local residents are being priced out.

### **Johnson City ISD Board of Trustees: Place 1 and Place 2 and Place 3**

**Election conducted by Johnson City ISD.**

**Early Voting:** Blanco County Courthouse Annex - Hoppe Room 101 East Cypress Street Johnson City

Sunday April 21	Monday April 22	Tuesday April 23	Wednesday April 24	Thursday April 25	Friday April 26	Saturday April 27
	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	

Sunday April 28	Monday April 29	Tuesday April 30	Wednesday May 1	Thursday May 2	Friday May 3	Saturday May 4
	8am-5pm	8am-5pm				Election Day

**Election Day: Saturday - May 4**

**Location open 7:00am to 7:00pm**

Voting location: Blanco County Courthouse Annex - Hoppe Room 101 East Cypress Street Johnson City

The Johnson City ISD Board of Trustees consists of seven trustees elected by eligible voters to serve a three-year term. Each trustee is elected at-large to serve in a numbered position and represents the entire school district. Elections are held annually on the May uniform election date. Johnson City ISD is located in Blanco County, and includes portions of Hays County, Llano County, and Travis County.

Duties: adopt goals and priorities and monitor success; adopt policies and review for effectiveness; hire and evaluate the superintendent; adopt a budget and a calendar for the school year; set the tax rate; and communicate with the community.

#### **Place 1, Johnson City ISD School Board**

**Joe Walker - Candidate is unopposed, so no questions were asked. Name is on the election ballot.**

#### **Place 2, Johnson City ISD School Board**

**Brit Odiorne - Candidate is unopposed, so no questions were asked. Name is on the election ballot.**

#### **Place 7, Johnson City ISD School Board**

<b>Zach Johnson</b>	<b>Jayme Danz Roschetzky</b>
No response received.	Email: jaymedanz@gmail.com

**What in your background qualifies you to serve as a member of the Johnson City ISD Board of Trustees?**

**Johnson:** No response received.

**Roschetzky:** My extensive background as a community member will be invaluable in effectively serving the needs of JCISD. Being a JCISD alumni, provides firsthand knowledge of this school system and understanding of local issues, which enables me to effectively engage with stakeholders and represent their interests. Over 12 years of experience in HR, has equipped me with knowledge in personnel management, which will be instrumental in addressing staffing needs within our district. Strong communication skills developed through various experiences early on through school and extracurriculars, college and professional career, will enable me to effectively convey ideas, build consensus and foster transparency.

**What are the most pressing issues facing the Johnson City school board?**

**Johnson:** No response received.

**Roschetzky:** The biggest issues facing JCISD are: overcrowding in the elementary school, which not only strains resources but also compromises the quality of education, the current middle school construction project which demands careful management to ensure timely completion and minimal disruption to students' learning experiences, and addressing staffing needs across JCISD which are crucial for maintaining a high standard of education. Recruiting and retaining qualified teachers and staff are important to fostering a supportive learning environment.

**What are citizens and parents telling you about their school district concerns?**

**Johnson:** No response received.

**Roschetzky:** Construction of the new middle school and staying within budget is a topic of concern. Another concern is the need to assure that any student struggling has the necessary resources available to help them without jeopardizing other students' learning. Teachers, administration, and parents working collectively toward a common goal with clear communication is essential to a child's education, which will ensure that all students are receiving the best possible education.

**League of Women Voters - Hill Country Texas**

For over forty years this League has served Kerr County and now serves six counties in the Texas Hill Country: Bandera, Blanco, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, and Llano. Members of this League live in all six counties. Both men and women over the age of 16 are members of the League and there are various membership levels with annual dues as a part of the membership. Visit the website to join: [lvvhillcountrytexas.org](http://lvvhillcountrytexas.org)

If reading this Voter Guide has helped you to be informed and vote, please consider a donation, in any amount, to help the Hill Country Texas League continue to offer this service to voters. Donations are accepted via the website: [lvvhillcountrytexas.org](http://lvvhillcountrytexas.org) or mail to the post office box on the front page.